THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) On an average, about 4000 to 5000 applications seeking registration and prior permission under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 are received from Associations in a year. Registration or prior permission is granted after due scrutiny of applications and a field verification of antecedents and activities of the applicant Association and its office bearers. A concerted attempt is made to process each and every case with due expedition. However, in certain cases, it may take a longer time to process applications mainly due to deficient or incorrect information furnished by Association, detected during scrutiny of the application and/or the field verification report, which necessitates obtaining additional Information from the Association to facilitate a judicious evaluation of the application before a considered decision is taken.

Under the normal circumstances, registration under the Act is granted in four to eight months from the date of receipt of application while prior permission is granted within the prescribed time limit of three to four months. However, in those prior permission cases, where the amount of foreign contribution sought is above a prescribed threshold limit, the antecedents of the foreign donor are also required to be verified, which is a time consuming activity.

As per information available, as against a total number of about 3800 applications received for registration/prior permission during the year 2007, about 450 applications are still in different stages of processing, mainly on account of information awaited from the applicant Association/field agency.

To put in place a user-friendly system, 'FCRA On-Line' services have been introduced, both for registration and prior permission, which has rationalized processing time to improve service delivery to applicant Associations.

Special package for flood victims in Assam

944. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has declared any special package for the thousands of families who are uprooted by flood and erosion in Assam;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to rehabilitate the flood affected people of Assam who had lost their cultivable land and houses demolished by flood and erosion; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (c) Under the existing Scheme of CRF/NCCF, there is no provision to provide funds under any special package to the States in the wake of notified natural calamities, which includes floods. Distribution of relief on ground is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing logistic and financial support, where necessary. For this purpose, a Calamity Relief

Fund (CRF) has been constituted with an allocated amount for each State, which is contributed by the Government of India and the State Government in the ratio of 3:1. State Level Committee under Chief Secretary of the State in fully empowered under the Scheme to operate CRF in accordance with the extant items and norms.

In the event of a calamity of a severe nature, when the funds available under CRF is inadequate, additional financial assistance is also provided from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in accordance with the established procedure.

An amount of Rs. 210.63 crore has been allocated to the State in the CRF for the year 2008-09, consisting or Rs. 157.97 crore as Central contribution and Rs. 52.66 crore as State contribution. The 1st installment of Central share of CRF, amounting to Rs. 78.985 crore, has been released on 19th August, 2008. In addition, an amount of Rs. 300.00 crore on an "on account" basis has been released from NCCF, to the State Government for management of flood-2008 on 24th September, 2008. The State Government is undertaking necessary relief operations in the flood-affected areas out of the funds available in the corpus of the CRF.

The State Government of Assam has submitted a memorandum seeking additional central assistance from NCCF for immediate relief operations in the areas affected by floods during 2008. The report of the Central Team, which visited the affected areas for on-the-spot assessment of damage and requirements of funds for relief operations is being processed as per the established procedure. The extant items and norms, *inter-alia* provide assistance for damage to crops and damage to houses.

Utilisation report on CRF from Assam Government

945. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Assam has not yet submitted the utilisation report on Central Relief Fund received till 2007-08;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of amount allocated and released to the Government of Assam considering the urgency to provide various relief and rehabilitation to the flood and erosion affected families in Assam for 2008; and

(d) the year-wise details of amount allocated and utilisation made so far in different heads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (d) As per the Scheme of financing the assistance for relief expenditure, the State Governments concerned are primarily responsible for undertaking necessary relief measures in the wake of identified natural disasters which include flood. Distribution of relief on ground is the